CLAIMS LISTING

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of manufacturing compartmented file folders, which comprises the steps of:

mechanically conveying to work stations of a production line: file folder components comprising: (a) first and second feedstock folder ~~front and back~~ panels, and (b) ~~at least one~~ a first internal divider; and,

~~at one of the work stations: (a)~~ employing a first, file folder alignment mechanism to mechanically align the first internal divider in side-by-side relationship with a ~~second~~ first of the file folder ~~components~~ panels, ~~and (b)~~

employing a second mechanism to secure one side of an edge of the internal divider ~~edge~~ to a complementary edge of the ~~second~~ first file folder ~~component~~ panel;

employing a third, conveyor mechanism to move the secured together first internal divider and first ~~the~~ feedstock folder panel to a ~~second~~ subsequent work station; and

at the ~~second~~ subsequent work station, employing a ~~third~~ fourth mechanism to secure an opposite side of the edge of the first internal divider to a complementary edge of a second internal divider or to ~~a third~~ the second of the file folder ~~components~~ panels.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended). A method as defined in claim 1 wherein:

apposed edges of the ~~front and back~~ first and second feedstock panels are taped together to form a hinge extending along a spine of the feedstock folder; and

~~a file folder component to which the first internal divider is secured is one of the feedstock folder panels; and~~

the internal divider edge is secured to ~~the~~ a feedstock folder panel edge with a mechanical arrangement comprising a tape transfer mechanism having the capability of laying a tape segment on the internal divider and the feedstock folder panel with the tape extending between the complementary edges of and lapping onto the internal divider and the feedstock folder panel.

Claim 7 (previously submitted). A method as defined in claim 6 which includes the step of passing the feedstock folder and the internal divider or dividers between press components to strengthen the bond formed between each tape segment and the file folder component onto which that tape segment laps.

Claims 8-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended). A method as defined in claim ~~8~~ 1 for manufacturing a file folder which has at least two internal dividers.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method as defined in claim 1 wherein:

complementary edges of the first and second feedstock folder ~~front and rear~~ panels are joined along a spine of the feedstock folder with a first tape segment;

the internal divider or dividers are secured ~~to the second and third folder components~~ with an additional tape segment or segments; and

the feedstock folder with the secured internal divider or dividers is conveyed to a pleating station equipped with components having the

capability of forming pleats in ~~at least one of~~ the first and and at least one additional tape segment such that a file folder compartment defined by file folder components joined by ~~that~~ the tape segments can be expanded from a minimum capacity configuration to a configuration of greater capacity.

Claim 13 (previously presented). A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the pleating station is equipped with mechanical components having the capability of forming pleats in all tape segments joining folder components.

Claim 14 (previously presented). A method as defined in claim 1 wherein each internal divider is conveyed to a work station from an internal divider repository with a mechanical arrangement comprising a vacuum pickoff and transfer mechanism for removing the internal divider from the repository and then conveying the removed internal divider to the work station where the internal divider is secured to a second file folder component.

Claim 15 (previously presented). A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the production line has one or more systems for moving feedstock folders and internal dividers to work stations and from one work station to another without human handling of the feedstock folders or the internal dividers.

Claim 16 (previously presented). A method as defined in claim 15 wherein:

the production line is equipped with a pleating station having the capability of forming pleats in a tape segment such that a file folder compartment defined by the file folder components joined by that tape segment can be expanded from a minimum capacity configuration to a configuration of greater capacity; and

the production line has the capability of moving feedstock folders and the internal divider or dividers secured to folder components from a work station to the pleating station without human handling of the feedstock folder and folder component-secured internal divider or dividers.

Claim 17 (previously presented). A method as defined in claim 1 for manufacturing a file folder which has two internal dividers.

Claims 18-28 (withdrawn).

Claim 29 (new). A method as defined in claim 1 in which:

the file folder components comprise first, second, and third internal dividers;

the first internal divider is secured on one side and at an edge thereof to a complementary edge of the second internal divider; and

the first internal divider is secured on a second, opposite side of the same edge to a complementary edge of the third internal divider.